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Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses deep concern over climate of insecurity in Burundi; condemns violence and intimidation within and outside country; reaffirms support for Convention of Government Agreement.

+ General Assembly and Security Council will hold simultaneous election on 21 June to fill International Court of Justice vacancy.

+ World Summit for Social Development focuses on employment; progress reported in negotiations for draft declaration and programme of action.

+ Secretary-General meets with high-level advisory group to discuss follow-up to Summit for Social Development.

+ Secretary-General deeply concerned with upsurge in fighting in Afghanistan; calls on all parties to implement an immediate cease-fire.

+ Western diplomats hold talks with Croatian President in effort to find compromise over proposed withdrawal of UNPROFOR's mandate.

+ Secretary-General reports productive dialogue between two sides in Abkhazia, Georgia; but says stalemate over return of refugees could derail negotiations and lead to renewed war.

+ Direct foreign investment to developing countries hits new record, increasing by 6 per cent to $204 billion in 1994.

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The Security Council today expressed its deep concern with the continuing climate of uncertainty in Burundi in a statement read out by its President, Li Zhaoxing (China). The Council condemned those within and outside the country who were using undemocratic methods to nullify the agreed power-

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sharing arrangements contained in the Convention of Government Agreement of 10 September. Their actions, including intimidation and incitement to violence, as well as guerrilla activities and political subversion, threatened peace, stability and national reconciliation, the Council said.

The Council reaffirmed its support for the Convention of Government Agreement and the coalition Government established under it. Noting the appointment of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, it urged all parties in Burundi to work together to ensure stability in the country.

Impunity was a fundamental problem in Burundi and seriously endangered security, the Council said. It stressed the importance of assistance to help strengthen the national judicial system. The Council also underlined the role played by the international commission of inquiry into the 1993 coup attempt and the massacres which followed.

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The Security Council today decided to fill the vacancy on the International Court of Justice in an election on 21 June this year. In unanimously adopting resolution (925) 1995, the Council decided to hold the election at a simultaneous meeting with the General Assembly.

The election is to fill the vacancy on the Court, as a result of the death of Judge Roberto Ago of Italy on 24 February. The term of office will be for the remainder of Judge Ago's term.

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Delegates have reported progress in the committees working on the draft declaration and programme of action expected to come out of the World Summit for Social Development. The Australian Ambassador, Richard Butler, who is chairing one of the working groups charged with ironing out the agreements, said political commitments were being made which would have been unthinkable three or four years ago. They reflected changes in the political landscape since the end of the cold war. He said it was now possible to create a new agenda that was people centred and less exclusively devoted to the security of States.

United States Under-secretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth said his Government had been focusing on absolute poverty. The global community would not be politically or economically viable as long as the enormous gap between rich and poor remained. He stressed that it was in his Government's national interests to close the gap.

Meanwhile, on the fourth day of the Summit, a general exchange of views continued in the plenary on the theme of employment. Discussion focused on productive employment and the reduction of unemployment. More than 120 heads of State and government are expected to address the Summit over the weekend.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met in Copenhagen Thursday with members of his high-level Advisory Group on the World Summit for Social Development, according to a United Nations spokesman. Nitin Desai, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination, and Sustainable Development, was also present. The discussions dealt with possible follow up to the Summit.

The Secretary-General also met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso. They discussed the situation in Chechnya, Rwanda and Burundi.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is deeply concerned by the recent upsurge in fighting in Afghanistan, which has caused many civilian casualties, particularly in Kabul, a United Nations Spokesman said Wednesday. The Secretary-General has appealed to the parties involved in the fighting to implement an immediate cease-fire. He has also appealed to them to stop initiating further hostilities, which would not serve the interests of the Afghan people or peace.

The Secretary-General has called on all sides to cooperate with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri and the working group of four independent Afghan personalities, in order to help bring a peaceful transition to power in the country.

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For the first time, there has been a productive dialogue between the two sides in Abkhazia, Georgia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In his report dated 6 March, the Secretary-General said negotiations had been constructive and businesslike. A common language had been found on some issues relating to the identification of a political status for Abkhazia.

However, the continued stalemate over the orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia could lead to explosive developments, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned. Political negotiations were likely to be derailed and there could be a resumption of a bitter war between the two sides. Therefore, efforts would continue to obtain an Abkhaz agreement on a timetable to ensure a substantial number of people returned to their homes by the middle of 1995.

The Secretary-General said the presence of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and forces from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had helped prevent renewed fighting. Their presence had also paved the way for political negotiations which must be maintained. He was confident that, with patience and perseverance, solutions could be found.

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There are hints that the Croatian Government might reverse its decision to evict the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at the end of March. According to UNPROFOR Radio, Western Diplomats have been having talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman aimed at finding a compromise. Proposals are reported to include having UNPROFOR remain in Croatia, perhaps under a different name and at approximately half the current strength.

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Direct foreign investment to developing countries increased by 6 percent in 1994, to reach an estimated $204 billion, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, (UNCTAD). The recovery of developed economies and the continued strong growth of several developing countries contributed to the increase in investments, UNCTAD reported.

The great majority of direct foreign investment has been spearheaded by transnational corporations based and operating out of developed countries, UNCTAD said. However, their investments in developing economies was increasing because of good growth performance and liberalized investment policies, including privatization programmes.

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